

# Superior Court Judge

## Michael A. Thompson, First Judicial District

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**DATE OF BIRTH:** June 26, 1949  
**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Newport, Arkansas  
**NAME OF SPOUSE:** Michale  
**CHILDREN:** Sydney, Robert  
**MAILING ADDRESS:** 415 Main Street, Room 400  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

**LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA:** 28 years  
Ketchikan

**EDUCATION:**  
Newport High School (Newport, Arkansas), 1963-1967;  
University of Arkansas, 1967-1971, B.S. P.S.; University of  
Arkansas, 1971-1974, J.D.; National Judicial Council (Reno,  
Nevada), 1993.

**MILITARY SERVICE:**  
U.S. Army Reserve, 1974-1980, 1st Lieutenant, Honorable  
Discharge.

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:**  
President, Alaska Conference of Judges, 1996-1997; board of  
governors, Alaska Bar Association, 1985-1992; founding  
director, ALPS Insurance Company, 1986-1993.

**SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:**  
Alaska Bar Association, Ketchikan Bar Association, numerous  
committees.

### STATEMENT:

Serving the people of Southeast Alaska as a Superior Court Judge has been a rewarding experience. Balancing the needs of individuals against one another, against institutions, or against the community as a whole is a difficult but necessary function in a nation of laws. To apply those laws in a rational and evenhanded manner, so that all can depart feeling they have received a fair hearing and a fair shake has been my aim. This has been my part in the constant struggle to make our world, our state, and our hometowns places of reason, prosperity, and safety for us, our parents, and our children.

First as a prosecutor representing the people, and afterward as a private attorney representing individuals, I spent my entire professional career in the active courtroom practice of law. I believed then, as I do now, that Alaska has a justice system as strong as any in these United States or the world. That does not mean I believe that our institution cannot be improved - to be faster, more efficient, less expensive - and yet remain fair to all involved. To these goals I have dedicated myself for the nine years since first taking office. I hope to continue this work.

*provided and paid for by the candidate*

# Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

## Judge Michael A. Thompson, Superior Court, Ketchikan

**I. Judicial Council Evaluation.** The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Thompson to be *Qualified* and recommends unanimously (5-0) that the public vote **Yes** to retain him as a superior court judge.

**II. Summary of Evaluation Information.** A survey of 2,860 attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Thompson on sixteen categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Attorneys rated Judge Thompson 4.0 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored highest (4.3) in the categories of conduct free from impropriety and courtesy. He scored 3.8 or better in all sixteen categories

	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey
Legal Ability	3.8	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.2	3.6	4.7	4.7
Integrity	4.3	3.8	---	4.7
Temperament	4.2	3.9	4.7	4.7
Diligence	4.0	3.7	---	4.6
Special Skills	4.0	3.5	---	---
Overall	4.0	3.6	4.7	4.6

Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

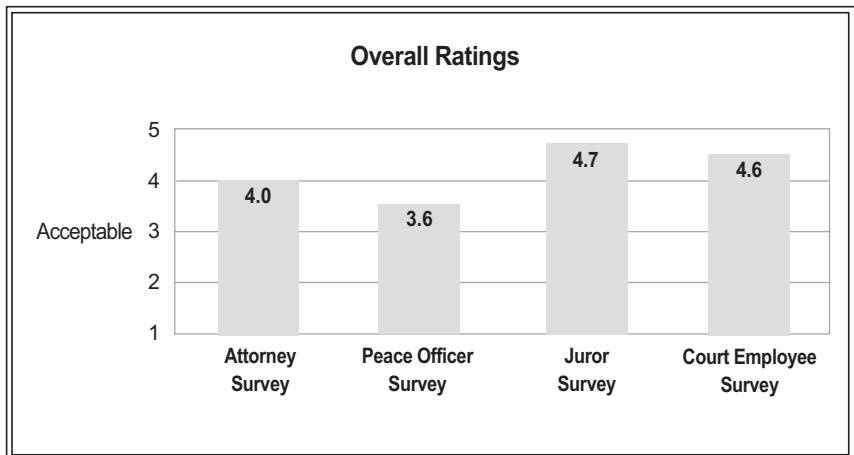
### Rating Scale

5.0 = Excellent  
4.0 = Good  
3.0 = Acceptable  
2.0 = Deficient  
1.0 = Unacceptable

A survey of 1,704 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Thompson on twelve categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Thompson 3.6 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored highest (3.9) in the categories of conduct free from impropriety, courtesy, and controls courtroom. He scored 3.5 or better in all categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Thompson in 2000 and 2001 rated him 4.7 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated him 4.6 on a scale of 5 on overall performance.

The Council also completed a background investigation including a court records check, a disciplinary records check, a review of conflict of interest statements submitted to the court system and a review of financial disclosure statements submitted to the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Attorneys, peace officers, court employees and jurors were asked to submit written comments about the judge. The Council actively encouraged the public to comment, both in writing and in a statewide public hearing teleconference.



**Recommendation: Vote YES to retain Judge Thompson**

Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. 3rd, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99501 (telephone: (907) 279-2526) for more detailed information, or review the information on our Internet site at:

[www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)

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